NCA
VOC FOR IOP/FN
BACKGROUNDER 1-0753 MAY 10, 1976
ANITA CHAPMAN

SOLZHENITSYN WORKS AT HOOVER INSTITUTE

ANNCR:

EARLIER THIS MONTH, EXILED RUSSIAN WRITER ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN ARRIVED UNANNOUNCED IN CALIFORNIA TO WORK ON THE FOURTH VOLUME OF HIS HISTORY OF THE SOVIET UNION. HE IS DOING RESEARCH AT THE HOOVER INSTITUTION OF STANFORD UNIVERSITY, THAT HOUSES THE MOST COMPLETE COLLECTION IN THE WORLD OF DOCUMENTS ON THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION. WITH MORE NOW ON THIS RESEARCH CENTER, HERE IS VOA'S ANITA CHAPMAN:

VOICE:

SOLZHENITSYN IS BUT ONE OF MANY SCHOLARS ATTRACTED TO THE HOOVER INSTITUTION BY ITS PRESTIGIOUS COLLECTIONS ON WAR, REVOLUTION AND PEACE.

THE INSTITUTE WAS FOUNDED BY HERBERT HOOVER, THIRTY-FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, WHO WAS A BRILLIANT MINING ENGINEER, BUT WHOSE INTEREST IN PEACE STEMMED FROM HIS EARLY EXPERIENCE OF WAR. AS A YOUNG MAN HE WAS CAUGHT UP IN THE BOXER REBELLION IN CHINA, LATER WORKED TO REPATRIATE THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS TRAPPED IN EUROPE BY THE FIRST WORLD WAR. DURING THE WAR HE SET UP A RELIEF OPERATION THAT FED TEN MILLION CIVILIANS IN BELGIUM AND FRANCE, AND FOLLOWING THE WAR, HELPED MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED MILLION PERSONS TO SURVIVE.

(OPT) EARLY IN SOVIET HISTORY, IT WAS HOOVER WHO ORGANIZED EMERGENCY HELP TO SAVE VICTIMS OF THE UKRAINIAN FAMINE. A LETTER IN THE HOOVER COLLECTION FROM THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT OF THAT TIME SAYS THE PEOPLE OF RUSSIA WILL NEVER FORGET THE GENEROSITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE LED BY MR. HOOVER. (END OPT)

HOOVER STARTED EARLY TO THINK ABOUT A RESEARCH CENTER AND TO COLLECT DOCUMENTATION FOR IT. THE LOGIC OF THE ENGINEER

LED HIM TO FEEL THAT THE STUDY OF WAR AND REVOLUTION WOULD PRODUCE INFORMATION FOR THE STUDY OF PEACE.

HE BEGAN COLLECTING WHILE ADMINISTRATOR OF RELIEF IN BELGIUM. AND AS HIS PUBLIC SERVICE GREW IN IMPORTANCE -- FIRST AS SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, LATER AS PRESIDENT -- SO DID HIS ABILITY TO ATTRACT CONTRIBUTIONS, AND WITH THE YEARS PRIZE AFTER PRIZE CAME INTO THE COLLECTION. (OPT) AS ONE EXAMPLE, THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT DONATED A COMPLETE SET OF PUBLICATIONS FROM THE GERMAN OCCUPATION DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR: MILITARY ORDERS TO THE POPULATION, WALL POSTERS, RESISTANCE PAMPHLETS. (END OPT)

AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR DOCUMENTS FROM BOTH ASIA AND EUROPE FLOWED IN THE COLLECTION, NOTABLY ON CHINA GATHERED SHORTLY AFTER THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION. ONE SCHOLAR REMARKED THAT HOOVER AND HIS FRIENDS VACUUMED HALF THE WORLD IN THEIR SEARCH FOR DOCUMENTATION.

(OPT) FROM THE START, HOOVER SENT THE MATERIAL TO STANFORD UNIVERSITY, WHERE HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS IN EIGHTEEN NINETY-FIVE. A BUILDING TO HOUSE IT, AND TO PROVIDE OFFICES FOR RESEARCH SCHOLARS, WAS BUILT IN THE LATE THIRTIES. (END OPT)

THE RESULT OF HOOVER'S WORK IS THE HOOVER INSTITUTION, ONE OF THE MOST MAGNIFICENT RESEARCH LIBRARIES IN THE WORLD. ITS EMPHASIS HAS BEEN ON RUSSIAN DOCUMENTATION, AND POSSESSES MANY DOCUMENTS THAT CAN BE CONSULTED ONLY THERE. THESE INCLUDE THE OKHRANA FILES OF THE CZARIST SECRET POLICE, SOCIALIST CLANDESTINE LITERATURE PASSED INTO RUSSIA IN THE COVERS OF PLATO AND SHELLEY, CLANDESTINE PUBLICATIONS PUT OUT IN RUSSIA DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR. IN ADDITION THERE IS A COMPLETE SET

OF THE MAGAZINE LIFE OF NATIONALITIES (PUT OUT BY THE COMMISSAR IN CHARGE OF MINORITIES, JOSEF STALIN) THROUGH WHICH MANY SCHOLARS FEEL HE BUILT HIS POWER BASE DURING THE YEARS NINETEEN EIGHTEEN TO TWENTY-ONE.

ONE VOLUME OF SOLZHENITSYN'S HISTORY IS ALREADY PUBLISHED, DEALING WITH THE YEAR NINETEEN FOURTEEN. TWO OTHERS, ON NINETEEN FIFTEEN AND SIXTEEN, ARE READY FOR PUBLICATION, AND A FOURTH, WHICH HE CALLS THE MOST MPORTANT, IS BEING WRITTEN. IT IS ON THIS THAT HE IS NOW WORKING QUIETLY IN CALIFORNIA IN THE FILES OF THE HOOVER INSTITUTION.

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